THE NONAGON

WINTER 2003

NEW HAMPSHIRE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Bowers and Merena Galleries'

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We invite you to be a part of our spectacular auction season for 2003. When it comes time to sell, let Bowers and Merena's expertise go to work for you! Whether your collection is worth several thousand dollars or several million dollars, the same quality of presentation and numismatic expertise that characterized our past record-breaking sales will showcase your coins, sets, or entire collection. Over the years we have sold hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of coins, paper money, and other numismatic items for tens of thousands of consignors, ranging from museums, government agencies, and institutions to private collectors.

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2003 Auction Schedule:

March 6, 2003 • Kingswood Coin Auctions
Telephone and Internet Auction
Consignment Deadline: January 24, 2003

March 13-15, 2003 • Baltimore, Maryland
in conjunction with the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: January 10, 2003

June 5, 2003 • Kingswood Coin Auctions
Telephone and Internet Auction
Consignment Deadline: April 22, 2003

June 26-28, 2003 • Chicago, Illinois
in conjunction with the MidAmerica Coin Expo
Consignment Deadline: April 18, 2003

July 30-August 2, 2003 • Baltimore, Maryland
The ANA Sale
Consignment Deadline: May 23, 2003

August 7, 2003 • Kingswood Coin Auctions
Telephone and Internet Auction
Consignment Deadline: June 24, 2003

September 14, 2003 • Los Angeles, California
The Rarities Sale
Consignment Deadline: July 14, 2003

September 25, 2003 • Kingswood Coin Auctions
Telephone and Internet Auction
Consignment Deadline: July 31, 2003

December 4-6, 2003 • Baltimore, Maryland
in conjunction with the Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention
Consignment Deadline: September 12, 2003

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please take a close look at your mailing label on the front of this issue of *The Nonagon*. If a "01" is after your membership number, you owe for last year and this year. Please send your dues to the Sam Allen; PO Box 1655; Dover, NH 03820. We have included a handy membership form on the back cover.

You may note that Life Memberships are no longer offered by NHNA. The Executive Council met and decided that the club can no longer afford this category of membership. We appreciate the longtime support our Life Members have given us and look forward to continued association with them. We welcome our potential new members and also look forward to long association with them.

We have had a few *Nonagons* returned by the Postal Service. If you know these members' whereabouts, please let us know.

Harold Whiteneck
John Mazeau
J Robert Merrill
Charles Pike

We note the passing of Ed Getz and James Gorman and thank them for their involvement with NHNA.

Thanks to Jim Guinesso for updating us on several members.

Please send member news to the editor.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of NHNA will be held on Sunday, 20 April 2003 (Easter Sunday) at 2PM during the Third Sunday Show in Nashua. This show is held at the Holiday Inn at Exit 4, and is one of the best little shows in New England. All members are invited to come early to cruise the bourse then attend the meeting. Annual election of officers will take place, plus interesting discussions about the club and NH numismatics. The Ray Wheeler Collection will be available for viewing by any member.

NH TOWN MEDALS QUIZ

By Bob Fritsch

New Hampshire Town Medals offer a fascinating array of topics and are a wonderful way to build a nice numismatic collection at reasonable cost. Here are a few questions about them to get you started.

1. What town proclaims on its medal that it is the best town by a dam site?
2. What was the error on the 1972 Rochester Town Medal?
3. Which medal depicts the steamer *Kusumpe*?
4. Which medal depicts glassblowers at work?
5. What town medal features a nifty railroad bridge, complete with steam train?
6. Which town medal would fit well in the Wells Fargo Museum?
7. Which town is halfway between the North Pole and the Equator, according to its medal?
8. Which town medal features a moose?
9. Which three towns used a common obverse for their 1969 medals?
10. What was unusual about the 1938 Hampton Beach medal featuring Goody Cole?
11. What town is the only one on earth?
12. Which town medal features the town's very claborate weather vane?
13. Which town had a red enameled strawberry on their 350th anniversary medal?
14. Which uniface town medal features a wolf?
15. Whitefield depicts an old engine of the P&O Railroad on its medal. What is (was) the P&O?
16. Which town medal features a hot air balloon?
17. Which town medal depicts a log drive on the Androscoggin River?
18. *The Lady of the Lake* resides on what town medal?
19. What town that made masts for sailing ships depicted one on their medal?
20. Which town medal depicts the *Blueberry Express*?

Answers next issue. And yes, you quizmaster loves trains.

What do you think of this quiz? Write to Bob at PO Box 3003; Nashua 03061-3003, or to bobfritsch@earthlink.net with your comments. Enough favorable responses will encourage more quizzes.

New Hampshire Numismatic Primer – Part 3
Merchants Obsolete Currency!

By Mike Garofalo, LM#110

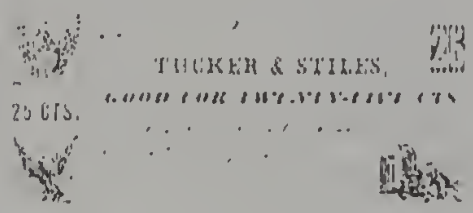
Continuing our occasional series on Granite State numismatic items, lets explore the paper money that was issued by various merchants in our state - New Hampshire Obsolete Merchants Scrip!

Why These Notes Exist

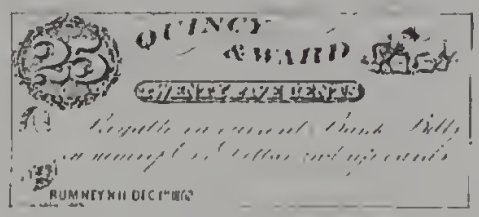
Since the United States Government did not start to print national currency until 1862, the states, authorized banks and a large variety of merchants printed their own currency. Technically the merchants printed scrip, rather than currency, which was redeemable in their stores to purchase merchandise. Most of the notes are small, generally 2" x 3" in size. Some notes bear rather ornate engravings; other notes bear beautiful vignettes; some notes are simple and plain. Many of the notes were issued in large quantities, as it was good for the merchants to have a fair amount circulating. That represented an 'interest-free' loan to him.

The 'Common' Notes

Displayed below are two different notes from fairly common merchants. They are relatively easy to acquire in most grades, including crisp uncirculated.



Tucker & Stiles Note from Brookline, NH

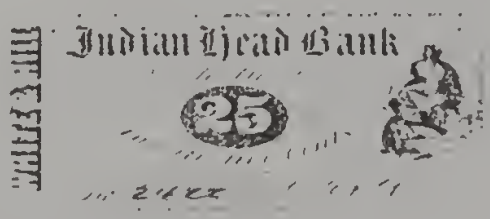


Quincy & Ward Note from Rumney, NH

Some of these notes exist in Crisp or Gem Uncirculated condition and many are remainders of undistributed notes. Generally, these types of common notes are worth from $5.00 in Fine condition up to $40.00 in Gem Uncirculated. Some of these notes are even available in small sheets of two or more denominations.

Other fairly common notes were issued by the merchant named Tucker, drawn on the Townsend Bank of Brookline, NH. A series of low denominations was issued by Tredick, Swinerton and Gilman of Union, NH, and is available in high grades.

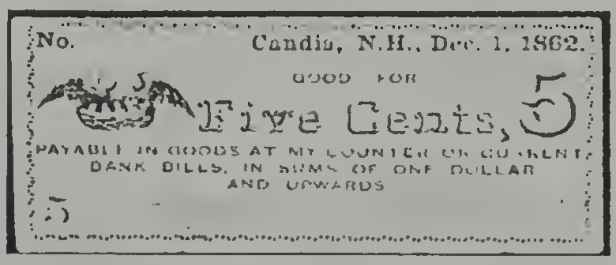
There are non-vignette notes issued by the State Capital Bank of Concord, NH. Merchants White & Hill, of Nashua, NH, issued an attractive .25 note drawn on the Indian Head Bank. While this note is relatively common in all grades from Good to Very Fine. I consulted a variety of other dealers and all were in agreement that we have never even seen an uncirculated specimen of this note!



Common in circulated grades, but unknown in Crisp Uncirculated?

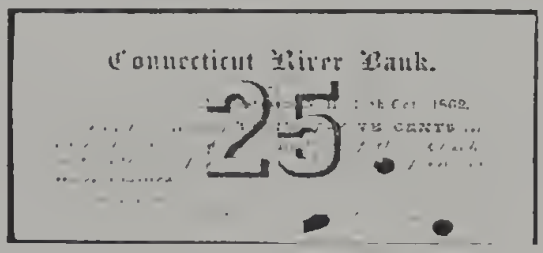
The 'Rare' Notes

Of course not all New Hampshire merchants' notes are relatively common. There are wonderful exceptions. For example, an 1862 5 Cents note, with a pelican vignette, which was issued in very tiny quantities by a merchant from Candia, NH, realized $748.00 in the Wayne Rich Sale conducted by Bowers & Merena Galleries in March of 2002.



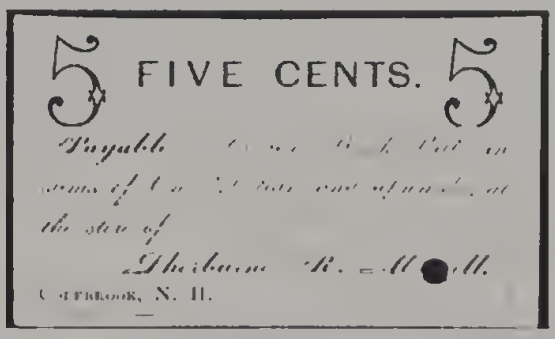
Lot 3052, Candia, NH 5 Cents, Very Rare, Wayne Rich Sale

Another rare merchants' scrip was an 1862 25 Cents note issued by George Wolcott, Jr. and drawn on the Connecticut River Bank of Charlestown, NH. It realized the hefty sum of $575.00, as lot #3054 in the same Wayne Rich Sale.



Lot #3054, Rare George Wolcott, Jr, note from Charlestown, NH, Wayne Rich Sale

A final rare note was Lot# 3056, issued by Sherburne R. Merrill, of the tiny hamlet of Colebrook, NH. This very rare note realized a whopping $920.00 in the Wayne Rich Sale. It is not especially pretty and it was punch-canceled, but it is very RARE!



Not especially pretty, but very Rare, Lot #3056, Sherburne Merrill of Colebrook, NH.

Summary

For most collectors, these elusive rarities will take a great deal of searching and a great deal of saving before we can find or afford them. But knowledge is the key. Since they certainly do not 'look' valuable, perhaps, one or more of these rarities may well be sitting in some dealer's inventory waiting to be discovered by the knowledgeable collector. Study your auction catalogs and read, read, read!

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

As many of you know the passing of Wayne Rich left a void in the NHNA that will be difficult to fill. What you also probably do not know is that the energy behind the NHNA has come from three people - Wayne, Bob Fritsch and me. Since Wayne's death some of the NHNA business has been delayed due to communication problems associated with Bob and I being a state's width apart. Compounding this problem was the "loss" of an envelope containing advertising payments and membership dues. While going through some of the NHNA information from last spring I found the missing envelope. If you submitted a payment for an advertisement or membership between March 2002 and May 2002 please be assured that your account has been credited and the checks have been deposited. So that check you wrote to the NHNA 8-9 months ago should be clearing any day! My apologies for any inconvenience.

Please be sure to send all checks and address changes directly to me at Sam Allen, NHNA, P.O. Box 1655, Dover, NH 03820.

New 1923 Dover NH medal found!

A new medal type from the 300th anniversary celebration in Dover, NH has been found in a recent eBay auction. The medal measures 35mm x 40mm and is composed of gold colored bronze. Minted by Whitehead and Hoag of Newark, NJ, the medal has Lady Liberty at the center with hands atop two seals. The seal to the right hand is the Dover NH City Seal and to the left is the Great Seal of the State of New Hampshire. At the top of the medal on a flowing ribbon is "Dover Tercentenary" and at Liberty's feet is "Celebration, August 1923". The medal is suspended from a royal blue ribbon with top pin bar. Since the medal was issued in velvet-lined box and was sealed with a wax band around the box, it can be safely assumed that the medal was a presentation piece. It was probably an honorarium to a speaker, officer or presenter. Strengthening this supposition is the fact that this medal has yet to be listed in the Nonagon or in Robert Heath's book "Medals of New Hampshire Cities and Towns". The medal was obtained from a dealer on Long Island who purchased it several years ago at a general estate auction. This is an exciting discovery as there has been extensive research done on the subject of New Hampshire town medals by numerous collectors and this variety has yet to be cataloged.

If you know of other New Hampshire town medal varieties that have yet to be cataloged, please contact Sam Allen at sallen@anselm.edu or call 742-6699.

Research to Begin on New Hampshire Exonumia - Sam Allen

One of Wayne Rich's on-going projects was a catalog of New Hampshire exonumia. Not only did he cover the topic of New Hampshire town medals, he also began to categorize merchant tokens, food stamp tokens, and paper money. I acquired many of Wayne's notes and articles on the topic of New Hampshire exonumia. If you have interesting NH medals, tokens, encased cents, food stamp tokens, wooden nickels, tourist medals, commemorative coins or other allied exonumia, please let me know so that I can include them in this on-going research project. I hope to begin to list some of this exonumia by category in future Nonagon issues.

I Like New Hampshire Currency!

I enjoy collecting colonial, state chartered, and National Bank currency from New Hampshire, anything and everything, including different denominations, signature combinations, plate letters, series variations, and more. I also like old stock certificates, correspondence, etc., relating to the above banks.

Do you have some New Hampshire currency for sale? I would be delighted to learn about it! I am not at all looking for bargains but will pay the full current market price for anything that I can use. I will give an instant decision on any item you offer me and will pay instantly for anything I can use.

Thank you for contacting me! I really appreciate it.

Dave Bowers

P.O. Box 539
Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896-0539

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e-mail: qdbarchive@metrocast.net

NH TOWN MEDALS IN THE RAY WHEELER COLLECTION

TOWN	DATE	MEDAL	SER#	COMMENTS
Barnstead	1977	Silver	12	w/Brochure
Belmont	1969	Silver	12	
Brookline	1969	Silver	12	
Chester	1972	Silver	12	
Chichester	1977	Silver	12	w/Brochure
Derry	1969	Silver	12	
Exeter	1938	Bronze	None	
Franklin	1928	Bronze	None	Fob loop
Gilmanton	1977	Silver	12	w/Brochure
		Gold Pl	12	
		Bronze	12	
Greenville	1972	Silver	012	
Harrisville	1970	Silver	12	
Keene	1975	Silver	12	w/Brochure
Londonderry	1969	Silver	12	
Madbury	1968	Silver	12	In Capitol Plastics holder. Presented
		Bronze	None	by the Town of Madbury.
Nottingham	1972	Silver	12	From Town Committee
Pittsfield	1982	Silver	12	Donated by Town
		Pewter	None	
		Bronze	None	
Randolph	1974	Silver	12	w/Brochure
		Bronze	12	
Rochester	1972	Silver	12	Non-Error
		Gold Pl	12	
		Bronze	None	
Salisbury	1968	Silver	12	In Capitol Plastics holder.
		Bronze	None	
		Bronze	None	
Sanbornton	1970	Silver	12	
Shelburne	1969	Silver	12	
Surry	1969	Silver	12	
		Bronze	None	
Tilton	1969	Silver	12	
Warner	1974	Silver	12	w/Brochure
Windham	1969	Silver	12	

NHNA would love further donations of Town Medals with serial number 12 to this collection. Please contact the President or Secretary.

Next issue: Other Medals in the collection, followed by wood issues which comprise its bulk.

ADVERTISING IN *THE NONAGON*

Advertising is accepted for *The Nonagon* at the following rates: Full page $20.00, Half Page $12.00, Quarter Page $7.00. The same ad may be included for three issues , Fall, Winter, and Spring, for 2½ times the single rate Copy for the ads must be camera ready and may be submitted to *The Nonagon*; PO Box 3003; Nashua, NH 03061-3003 by 1 September, 1 January, or 1 April with a check made out to NHNA. A modest setup fee will be charged for non-camera ready ads. NHNA thanks our advertisers and members are encouraged to mention *The Nonagon* when responding to them. Those who support NHNA through advertising deserve your business.

The Editor may be contacted at the above address or via email at bobfritsch@earthlink.net.

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